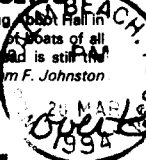


MARBLEHEAD, MASSACHUSETTS

MARBLEHEAD, MASSACHUSETTS

An aerial view of the town of Marblehead, showing the Boat Hall in the left center. The harbor, filled with hundreds of boats of all descriptions, graphically illustrates that Marblehead is still the yachting capital of the world. Photo by William F. Johnston

DO NOT FILE COPY ORIGINAL



Published by Coastal Colour Prints
P.O. Box 73, Danvers, Ma. 01923



Please do not open
US. Waive the regulatory POST CARD Secretary
Fee for pleasure boaters F.C.C.
It is so unfair. Washington, DC

Wendell B. Cunnell
22 Harbor Ave

20554

MAILED 10 MAR 20 1994

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David D. Raphaelson

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(MAR 31 1994

3200 South Ocean Blvd.
Bldg. D - Apt. 204
Palm Beach, Florida 33480

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (407) 585-0756
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

3-16-94

SIRS

THE SEVERAL TIMES I
HAVE USED MY MARINE
RADIO, IT HAS BEEN FOR
RESCUE OR LAW ENFORCEMENT
PURPOSES. I COULD NOT JUSTIFY
PAYING EXORBITANT FEES TO
USE IT.

I MUST PROTEST THE
RAISING OF THE USER FEE.

Truly

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One

David Raphaelson

OUR VIEW

Scuttle radio fee hike for boaters

A proposed increase in marine radio fees ought to be dumped to the bottom of the ocean. The Federal Communications Commission plans to increase the 10-year \$35 application fee to \$45 plus add a 10-year \$70 regulatory charge this summer. Considering that marine radio licenses cost nothing five years ago and that licensing is not enforced well, the FCC (and Congress) has gone overboard.

The Coast Guard opposes the change in fees on safety grounds, and rightly so. Coast Guard Commandant J.W. Kime told the FCC that the \$115 total is higher than the price of some marine radios. He predicts the cost will cause some people to put their boats in the water without a radio.

The presence of a radio to call for help can mean the difference between survival and death. Many of the 11.1 million registered boaters realize radios are important safety equipment and have them.

The financial benefits to government will cost too much in the possible loss of life.

The fee increases are spelled out in a federal budget bill Congress passed last fall to shift some telecommunications costs off taxpayers. Making users pay is a good concept — except where safety equipment is concerned. The FCC is leery of exempting recreational boaters, as some urge, without a clear message from lawmakers. Congress certainly can make clear it wants boaters' marine radios exempt. Legislators can figure out a better way to raise the \$4.5 million the extra money each new and renewed license would bring in.

**Where to write
comments until
April 7:
Office of the
Secretary
Federal
Communications
Commission
Washington, D.C.
20554**

If Congress wants to spread the FCC costs around, boaters are an insignificant part of the FCC's overall responsibilities, even in telecommunications.

Radio charges would really hit Michigan boaters. This state has 866,000 registered boats, more than any other place.

The FCC cites its enforcement costs. But that argument doesn't hold

water. Most of its several hundred FCC enforcement officers spend their time checking on television and radio stations and telephone companies. The Coast Guard already does most of the policing during on-board inspections for other federal boating laws. The FCC could delegate radio authority, ending duplication.

Another overlap, public education about the radios, could be delegated to the Coast Guard Auxiliary. The auxiliary does a good job now with public education activities and could add use of the radio to its activities.

Budget-balancing and cost-cutting are important. But our main objection to this idea is the increased safety risk. Congress and the FCC should torpedo the fee increase.

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FCC MAIL ROOM

Dear Sirs -

This editorial pretty well states
my feelings about what should
be done with what you are
proposing.

I back the editorial 100%

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Security
Diana
Donaherty

94-19

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FCC MAIL ROOM

Easter time is special
for the chance
it brings to say
You're someone
very special
and you're wished
a happy day!

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Orig

I hope you will
waive the regulatory
fee for the pleasure
beaters. It is so
unfair

Best.

The James E. Grinnells
2850 S Ocean Blvd
Palm Beach, FL.

33480

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MAR 3 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

To Whom It May Concern;

I am writing to express my concern about the large increase in application fee and the new regulatory charge associated with marine radio licensing.

I have been boating on the Great Lakes all my life. As a youngster, my father stressed the importance of our marine radio for safety, in case of an emergency, and also to monitor for others that we might be able to assist.

I have owned many boats since that time and always considered my radio as a friend. I can swap information about ship traffic, fishing hot spots, dangerous areas, dive sites, and if needed, contact someone for help or be of assistance to someone needing help.

There are many areas of the Great Lakes where the Coast Guard presence is lacking. An example is the Northern area of Lake Huron from Harrisville to Presque Isle. The nearest Coast Guard station is either in Tawas, 3 to 4 hours south, or at Cheboygan, 4 to 5 hours north.

I have been diving the shipwrecks in this stretch of the lake for many years and know from experience that fellow boaters can render assistance much faster than the Guard can. In many instances, the additional delay can be terrifying and downright dangerous. I think it would be a terrible disservice to every boater if the added cost of regulations in any way hindered this safety net of "Good Sam's" that listen for those in need.

It would be a shame if conscientious boat owners like myself gave up our radio because of not being able, or willing, to pay the increased fees.

Sincerely,

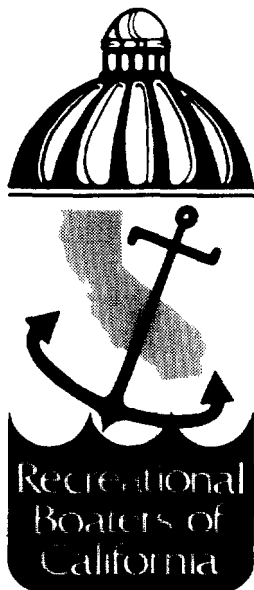
William Atkins

William Atkins

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94-19



March 26, 1994

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Room 222,
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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MAR 31 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

RE: Proposed Marine Radio License Fees

Dear Secretary:

This is to inform you that Recreational Boaters of California [RBOC] is strongly opposed to the proposal of the Federal Communications Commission [FCC] to increase the VHF marine radio license fees from the current \$35 to \$105.

RBOC is the advocacy organization which represents California boaters before state government. We are committed to promoting the enjoyment, protection, and responsible use of our waterways.

RBOC opposes the dramatic increase in licensing fees for the two-way radios which are an essential piece of safety equipment aboard boats. Indeed, the high level of the fees could very well cause boaters not to have a radio on board.

The fees would jeopardize the safety of the 3 million recreational boaters in this state, who would not have radios to call for emergency assistance, to learn of weather forecasts, or to hear another boater's distress calls.

RBOC believes the FCC should take action to provide the recreational boating public with a blanket waiver, on public safety grounds. A similar waiver has already been granted to amateur radio operators.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Gail E. Hine, President

c: Michael Sciulla, BOAT\U.S.
Board of Directors

rboc\l-fcc.doc

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FEB 30 8 39 AM '94
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Gary W. Akin
203 Harrington Lane
Florence AL 36602-6623

MAR 2 2 34 PM '94

23 February 1994

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Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW
Washington DC 20554

MAR 3 1 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Hundt,

Please find enclosed copies of my letters to Vice-President Gore, Congressman Dingell and Senator Hollings concerning the issue of increased FCC fees for marine radio licenses for voluntary-equipped recreational boats. As my letters to them indicate I am concerned about the outcome of such action.

As a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary I volunteer my time and resources to promote recreational boating safety in northwest Alabama as do many other volunteers in Alabama and across the nation. It is from this perspective that I hear what boaters are saying and contemplating. While I admittedly do not have access to all the data required to address this issue, I feel very strongly that the government is headed in the wrong direction. I hope I can count on you to lead the effort in finding a progressive and enlightened solution to this issue.

Sincerely,


Gary W. Akin

enclosures

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Gary W. Akin
203 Harrington Lane
Florence AL 35630-6613

23 February 1994

Vice-President Al Gore
Old Executive Office Building
Washington DC 21403

Vice-President Gore:

I write you with great concern about the ultimate outcome of Government efforts to increase revenues by raising the fees charged by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for marine radio station licenses aboard voluntary-equipped recreational boats.

Since late 1990 when the FCC first implemented the thirty-five dollar fee, an increasing number of boaters have chosen to operate without license. Although clearly illegal these people realize there is little chance of FCC enforcement activity. The FCC has indirectly admitted such when it asked the Coast Guard to check for licenses during the course of routine Coast Guard boardings of recreational boats. Now with the pending increased processing fee of forty dollars and the ten year user tax of seventy dollars, there are more boaters than ever contemplating going unlicensed. (Some even talk of getting rid of their radios which would ultimately reduce safety on our nations waterways. This reduced safety factor is such that I understand the Coast Guard is already on record opposing the fees because of their fears of hampered search and rescue.) I see the same situation emerging that caused the FCC to lose control of citizens band licensing in the 1970's and 80's.

I propose that marine radio station licensing of voluntary-equipped recreational boats be eliminated for those boats operating in U.S. waters and equipped with no other marine transmitters than very high frequency (VHF) radiotelephone, radar, and the new 401MHz emergency transmitters. (The transmissions from the three mentioned transmitters are limited to line-of-sight distances and should be encouraged for each vessel as safety equipment.) Voluntary-equipped boats using medium (MF) and high frequency (HF) transmitters or visiting foreign ports would still require a license in accordance with international treaty. The FCC has already established the precedent for this when a few years ago they eliminated the requirement to have a restricted radio operators permit (RROP). Like my proposal, radio operators visiting foreign ports or operating MF or HF transmitters must still have the RROP. The issue of callsigns for these voluntary license-free stations has already been addressed by the FCC in their established procedure for temporary callsigns on FCC form 506-A. Eliminating licensure does not relieve the operator of the responsibility to comply with FCC rules.

I admittedly do not have the data to indicate what portion of the FCC licensing effort is associated with voluntary-equipped recreational boats--although I perceive it as significant. Nor can I project the amount of revenue the Government expects to collect through these fees. (However if I may make an analogy, the recently repealed luxury tax revealed the Government more successful in nearly ruining the marine industry and putting workers on the street than it was in raising the projected revenues.) Perhaps the FCC workers released from licensing could be used to work on the projects to meet the communications demands and inventions of the 21st century and perhaps even your Information Superhighway.

You and President Clinton have stated you want to reinvent government and I have just offered my sincere and thoughtful input to the process. I will do my best to meet the FCC requirements whatever they may be, but boaters have just been hit with a twenty cent per gallon diesel fuel tax and the very real chance of increased FCC fees. Boaters are becoming tired of all the extra fees placed upon them regardless of what they are called. Vice-president Gore I very sincerely and honestly believe if the Government continues on the path it has started it will lose control of the marine radio program in grass roots America. Will you please lead those involved to a progressive and enlightened solution?

Most Respectfully,



Gary W. Akin

cc: Representative Bud Cramer
Senator Howell Heflin
Senator Richard Shelby

Gary W. Akin
203 Harrington Lane
Florence AL 35630-6613

23 February 1994

Senator Ernest Hollings
Chairman, Senate Commerce Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Hollings:

I write you with great concern about the ultimate outcome of Government efforts to increase revenues by raising the fees charged by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for marine radio station licenses aboard voluntary-equipped recreational boats.

Since late 1990 when the FCC first implemented the thirty-five dollar fee, an increasing number of boaters have chosen to operate without license. Although clearly illegal these people realize there is little chance of FCC enforcement activity. The FCC has indirectly admitted such when it asked the Coast Guard to check for licenses during the course of routine Coast Guard boardings of recreational boats. Now with the pending increased processing fee of forty dollars and the ten year user tax of seventy dollars, there are more boaters than ever contemplating going unlicensed. (Some even talk of getting rid of their radios which would ultimately reduce safety on our nations waterways. This reduced safety factor is such that I understand the Coast Guard is already on record opposing the fees because of their fears of hampered search and rescue.) I see the same situation emerging that caused the FCC to lose control of citizens band licensing in the 1970's and 80's.

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Will you please lead those involved to a progressive and enlightened solution?

Most Respectfully,



Gary W. Akin

cc: Representative John Dingell, Chairman, House Energy and Commerce
Committee
Representative Bud Cramer
Senator Howell Heflin
Senator Richard Shelby
Mr. Reed Hundt, Chairman, FCC

Gary W. Akin
203 Harrington Lane
Florence AL 35630-6613

23 February 1994

Representative John Dingell
Chairman, House Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Dear Congressman Dingell:

I write you with great concern about the ultimate outcome of Government efforts to increase revenues by raising the fees charged by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for marine radio station licenses aboard voluntary-equipped recreational boats.

Since late 1990 when the FCC first implemented the thirty-five dollar fee, an increasing number of boaters have chosen to operate without license. Although clearly illegal these people realize there is little chance of FCC enforcement activity. The FCC has indirectly admitted such when it asked the Coast Guard to check for licenses during the course of routine Coast Guard boardings of recreational boats. Now with the pending increased processing fee of forty dollars and the ten year user tax of seventy dollars, there are more boaters than ever contemplating going unlicensed. (Some even talk of getting rid of their radios which would ultimately reduce safety on our nations waterways. This reduced safety factor is such that I understand the Coast Guard is already on record opposing the fees because of their fears of hampered search and rescue.) I see the same situation emerging that caused the FCC to lose control of citizens band licensing in the 1970's and 80's.

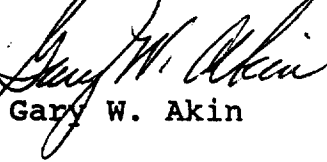
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Will you please lead those involved to a progressive and enlightened solution?

Most Respectfully,



Gary W. Akin

cc: Senator Ernest Hollings, Chairman, Senate Commerce Committee
Representative Bud Cramer
Senator Howell Heflin
Senator Richard Shelby
Mr. Reed Hundt, Chairman, FCC

James C. Bodenner M.S., J.D.

RECEIVED

MA NS

January 24, 1994

MAR 31 1994

Federal Communications Commission
POB 1050
Gettysburg, PA 17326

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of myself and friends of mine who have signed the attached form. All of us are volunteers involved regularly with an organization that provides boating safety education to the public. It is our understanding that the FCC is planning on increasing the fee to license marine radios from \$35 to \$70 for the five year license.

All of us are boat owners and see first hand the misuse of the marine radio. It is our opinion that we need to increase boater education and law enforcement to prevent misuse of the marine radio and misuse is very common! As boaters on Lake Michigan we have all been faced with situations where the marine radio was our only link to safety. In an emergency the radio saves lives we need to do everything we can to prevent misuse of this critical piece of equipment.

Raising the fee will only discourage boaters from licensing their radio or it will discourage boaters from buying the radio. It is our understanding that none of the additional fees will be used to further needed public education. We strongly urge you to reconsider your policy and either eliminate the proposed increase or use the increase to fund public boating education.

Please contact me with the FCC position on this matter.

Sincerely,


James C. Bodenner

CC: Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers
166 Federal Building
110 Michigan Street NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

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Orig

The undersigned support the attached letter dated January 24, 1994 regarding the proposed increase in the for licensing of the marine radios.

[illegible]

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PRIVATE RADIO BUREAU
SPECIAL DELIVERY



MAR 8 8 47 AM '94

Nancy & Ernie April
34 Rockleigh Road
Rockleigh, NJ 07647

1 March, 1994

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MAR 31 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Secretary of the FCC
Office of the Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr Secretary,

I urge you to work against the proposed increase in FCC licensing fee for marine VHF radio operation.

As a boat owner, I have a VHF aboard that I rarely -- but I would not sail without it. Most boaters I know seldom transmit on VHF. A non-commercial boat VHF transmitter is usually considered a safety item that, hopefully, will never have to be used. As such, the licensing fee should cover the cost of the paperwork for issuing the license and not become another tax.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ernie April", written over a horizontal line.

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Doug", written over a horizontal line.

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94-19

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

March 12, 1994
610 Monegan Road
Whitefish, MT 59931

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MAR 31 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Senator Ernst Hollings, Chairman
Senate Commerce Committee

Re: Proposed VHF license fee increase

Dear Senator Hollings,

I am writing to protest the pending FCC VHF radio license fee increase from \$35 to \$110. Such an increase will discourage recreational boaters from carrying a vital piece of safety equipment, thereby reducing boating safety. The increase will also lead to more unlicensed use of VHF's. Here in northwest Montana where we get no FCC or Coast Guard enforcement services, there are already many boaters, dare I say most, who operate VHF's without licenses. This is evidenced any day during boating season by continuous and flagrant violation of FCC transmission rules and protocols. The fee increase would compound this problem. As one who has secured a FCC license, I object to the increase, especially with no FCC service or enforcement in this area. \$35 for no service is bad enough. \$110 would be intolerable and simply intensify the feeling that honest citizens who meet their obligations are victimized by taxes and regulations while those who do not meet their obligations are rewarded.

Please do not further compromise boating safety and burden honest recreational boaters. Reject the fee increase.

Thank You,

Klaus Heinrich

Klaus Heinrich

cc: Senator Bacus
Senator Burns
FCC



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94-19

Secretary of the FCC
c/o Office of Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 31 1964

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WE OPPOSE THE NEW \$7.00 A YEAR USER FEE PROPOSED ON HOLDERS OF VHF
MARINE RADIO LICENSES:

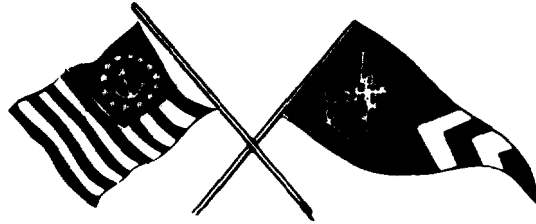
NAME

ADDRESS

Francis M. Orange	E. Hampton, NY
JA B. Savage	C. Hampton N.Y.
M. Thelma Callahan	Amagansett N.Y.
Henry J. Sierp	BOX 401 AMAGANSETT NY
Bessie Kalbacher	93 Gardiner Ave. East Hampton
Rodriguez W. Shull	5 Sycamore Dr. E. Hampton, NY 11937
John B. Schure	3866 Noyac Rd, Sag Harbor, NY 11963
Joan P. Schure	" " " " " "
Marie Beyer	High St. Sag Harbor, NY
Boyd Hansen	42 Archibald Way Sag Harbor NY 11963
Kathleen Hansen	42 Archibald Way Sag Harbor 11963
Anna Thille	5 Sycamore Dr. East Hampton, NY 11937
Fred Beyer	72 High St. Sag Harbor, N.Y. 11963
Robert E. Kallach	93 Gardiner Ave EAST HAMPTON, NY 11937
RL Kurbach	87 GARDNER AVE E Hampton NY 11937

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July



EAST HAMPTON POWER SQUADRON, INC.

CHARTERED 25 MAY 1967 - INCORPORATED 13 FEBRUARY 1976

A UNIT OF UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS

March 10, 1994

Secretary of the FCC
c/o Office of Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Gentlemen:

We, the signees of the attached petition, would like to go on record as being intensely opposed to the plan to add a "user fee" of \$7.00 per year on holders of VHF marine radio licenses. This fee, in addition to the existing \$35 five year license fee now required would in effect double the cost of a license.

This is an outrageous proposal and one that could conceivably have a very **negative** impact on boating safety.

We would hope you will listen to knowledgeable people and not put this plan into effect.

Sincerely,

Billie Kalbacher

East Hampton Power Squadron, Inc.
Billie Kalbacher, Secretary